



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

H.17

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/525,081

08/16/2005

Yoshitaka Atarashi

056208.55952US

5107

23911 7590 02/06/2007
CROWELL & MORING LLP
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP
P.O. BOX 14300
WASHINGTON, DC 20044-4300

EXAMINER

VU, BAID

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2109

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
--	-----------	---------------

3 MONTHS

02/06/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/525,081

Applicant(s)

ATARASHI ET AL.

Examiner

Bai D. Vu

Art Unit

2109

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 February 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Objection

Abstract

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the informalities: the similarity of language in brief description of Fig.14, Fig.15 and Fig.16 (page 6 and 7) is noticed. Examiner suggests the differences between the drawings be stated. Correction is required.

3. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required:

Regarding claim 1, the language, "a first step of", in line 5, "a second step of", in line 10, and, "a third step of", in line 15 are not found in the specification.

Regarding claim 2, the language, "a first step of", in line 3, "a fourth step of", in line 8, and, "a fifth step of", in line 12 are not found in the specification.

Regarding claim 3, in line 3, the language, "a sixth step of", is not found in the specification.

Regarding claim 4, in line 3, the language, "a seventh step of", is not found in the specification.

Regarding claim 5, in line 3, the language, "an eighth step of", is not found in the specification.

Drawings

4. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference characters have been used to designate same part in Fig.2, Fig.10, Fig.11 and Fig.12 . Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

5. The drawings are objected to because Fig.5 and Fig.8 appear to have typographical errors.

Regarding Fig.5, in cache memory 14, the second database drawing down, the number "50" is seems to be conflicted with the numbers displaying in the third and forth database drawings and the specification (page 37, line 17).

Regarding Fig.8, the part numbers in the action displaying between the first database drawing in cache memory and the server unit is conflicted with the part numbers assigned in the Fig.2.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Rejection

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Art Unit: 2112

7. Claim 2 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The limitation, "a first step of obtaining candidate characters for next input and the number of candidates pertaining to an input character string from the server system via the communication network, and storing them into a cache memory provided in the navigation apparatus;", in line 3-7, there is repeated from claim 1 line 5-9.

Additionally, the word, in line 13, "it" has no antecedent basis in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claim 1, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by JP 2002286479 A (hereinafter JP '479).

Regarding claim 1, JP '479 teaches:

An input support method in a communication-type navigation system in which a navigation apparatus and a server system are connected via a communication network (communication device using telephone line to

communication with external database - see e.g., paragraph [0015], the input support method comprising:

a first step of obtaining candidate characters for next input and the number of candidates pertaining to an input character string from the server system via the communication network, and storing them into a cache memory (see e.g., paragraphs [0017] – [0019]) provided in the navigation apparatus (the navigation equipment – see e.g., paragraph [0009]);

a second step of at least when an input character string is updated at the navigation apparatus, searching the cache memory (see e.g., paragraph [0009]) for candidate characters (destination information – see the Abstract) following the updated input character string and the number of candidates pertaining to the updated input character string; and

a third step of, when the candidate characters following the updated input character string and the number of candidates pertaining to the updated character string (coordinate data corresponding to the destination information – see the Abstract) have not been stored in the cache memory (does not exist in the map data memorized by the storage - see e.g., paragraph [0013]) as yet, transmitting the updated input character string to the server system (destination information acquired from external database - see e.g., paragraph [0016]).

Regarding claim 6, note an address search is included in the Abstract.

Regarding claim 7, note a POI search is taught in the Abstract (place names, telephone numbers, and addresses).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claim 1, 2 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '479 in view of Chun et al. (Pub No. US 2004/0203916).

Regarding claim 2, as set forth in the rejection of claims 1 and 7, JP '479 clearly shows and discloses the claimed invention except taking character by an input operation and correcting input character string if necessary then display as claimed. However, Chun et al. teaches the information data input being taken from different optional sources (see e.g., paragraphs [0035] and [0040]).

Regarding claim 6, an address search is clearly shown and disclosed by Chun et al. (see e.g., Abstract).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the input support method of JP' 479 with the information data input being taken from different optional sources and the address search of Chun et al. as the additional features would provide greater functionality to the input support method.

12. Claim 1 and 3 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '479 in view of Oda et al. (Patent No. US 6,856,892 B2).

Regarding claim 3, as set forth in the rejection of claims 1, 6 and 7, JP '479 clearly shows and discloses the claimed invention except the re-transmitting again if the request not receiving in a predetermined period of time as claimed. However, Oda et al. teaches a system and method for monitoring to determine whether to transmit request again (see e.g., Fig. 5, line 57 and row 14 in the Specification).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the input support method of JP' 479 with the monitoring to determine whether to transmit request again of Oda et al. as the additional feature would provide greater functionality to the input support method.

13. Claim 1, 4, 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '479 in view of Suzuki (Pub No. US 2004/0088110).

Regarding claim 4, as set forth in the rejection of claims 1 and 6, JP '479 clearly shows and discloses the claimed invention except candidate characters and number of candidates being belatedly received due to communication delay then stored in the cache memory as claimed. However, Suzuki teaches the method to store road information data or POI data including POI different data, which is received by different sources for updating, in the local memory.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the input support method of JP' 479 with using local memory (i.e., cache medium) to store the information data which is received by different data receivers (candidate characters number of candidates is belatedly received due to a communication delay then stored into the cache

Art Unit: 2112

memory) as taught by the system of Suzuki (see e.g., paragraph [0039]) to fully update the data.

Regarding claim 5 and 7, as set forth in the rejection of claims 1 and 6, JP '479 clearly shows and discloses the claimed invention except correcting the input character, which is already inputted into the updated character string, based on the response of candidate characters and the number of candidate from the server system as claimed. However, Suzuki teaches POI search and information being updated (corrected) from different data receivers from different sources then displaying the freshness information to the user based on the information inputted by the user (the search).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the input support method of JP' 479 with a POI search (see e.g., paragraphs [0008] and [0014]) and used freshness data information, received from different sources, as taught by Suzuki, to inform the user comparing to pre-updated information (see e.g., paragraphs [0010] and [0011]) to update information using multiple sources.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bai D. Vu whose telephone number is 571-270-1751. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri 7:30 - 5:00 EST.

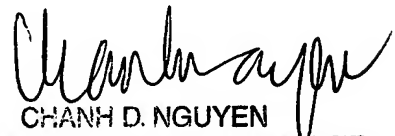
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Deborah Reynolds can be reached on 571-272-4919.

Art Unit: 2112

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

BV


CHANH D. NGUYEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER